(b) No, Sir. The punctuality of Mail and Express trains has improved to 89.2% in 1995-96 as compared to 87.6% in 1994-95.

(c) Does not arise.

Domestic Traffic Passenger

1975. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a fall in domestic traffic passenger figures during the last six months from Mumbai as compared to same period in the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of passenger figures from April to November, 1996 as compared to year 1995 (month-wise);

(d) the other airports where there has been a fall in passenger figures in 1996 as compared to 1995 and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to attract more tourists and other passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There is a decline in the traffic varying between 3% to 6%. However, it is difficult to pinpoint the reasons for this decline.

(c) Details of monthwise - Domestic passengers carried from Mumbai airport during the period April, 1996 to November, 1996 and the corresponding period in 1995 is given below :-

Month	1996	1995
April	530632	526375
May	575304	597575
June	517240	550746
July	481188	511073
August	524282	512792
September	489149	509401
October	494580	526581
November	516054 (Estimated)	562661

(d) Calcutta, Madras, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Cochin, Coimbatore, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Khajuraho, Madurai, Mangalore and Nagpur airports have also recorded a decline in traffic during the period April-August, 1996 compared to the corresponding period in 1995. Reasons for this decline needs a detailed study.

(e) Air transport services including airport are being continuously developed and expanded to cater to both domestic and international passengers. Airports Authority of India has plans to spend Rs.3490 crores for upgrading various airports during the 9th Plan period.

Railway Link with Himachal Pradesh

1976. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there were demands from Himachal Pradesh for providing rail links from Kalka to Parwanoo, Dhenwala to Nalagarh, Bhanupur to Nangal and Nangal to Bilaspur;

(b) if so, whether any of these projects were approved and works started on them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in respect of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) :.(a) Demands have been received for Kalka-Parwanoo and Bhanupali-Bilaspur line.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Survey for Kalka -Parwanoo is in progress as a deposit work on behalf of the Himachal Pradesh Government. Survey for Bhanupali-Beri via Bilaspur has been completed and modalities for funding the project are being worked out with Himachal Pradesh Government.

Expenditure Incurred by IA

1977. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred by Indian Airlines on account of the stay of their pilots, Air Hostesses etc. in 5 Star Hotel while on duty, during the last two years;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred on the gifts/ presentations to the staff during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce such expenditure in view of heavy loss suffered by the Indian Airlines during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Indian Airlines incurred an expenditure of Rs.1478.24 lakhs and Rs.1878.32 lakhs during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively on account of stay of Pilots, Air Hostess etc. in 5 Star Hotels while on duty.

(b) Indian Airlines employees were given gifts/ presentations of an amount of Rs. 15.08 lakhs and Rs.9.79 lakhs during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(c) As per schedule and aircraft route pattern, night halts for the crew are unavoidable due to change of aircraft routing. Reduction in expenditure on account of gifts/presentations to staff is also not possible since these are customary in nature.